



WHITEPAPER

Identity Theft Affects All Ages

Anyone can be affected by identity theft, from small children to senior citizens. It doesn't matter who or how old you are; security breaches can expose your sensitive information to criminals.

Children

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), because children have no credit history, their identities can easily "be used by identity thieves to apply for government benefits, open bank and credit card accounts, apply for a loan or utility service, or rent a place to live." Because most children will not need to use their identities until they turn 16, fraud can often go undetected for years. Identity theft can be devastating for them as it affects their ability to get student loans, scholarships, internships, jobs, and credit cards.

Generation Y and Millennials

Millennials often feel somewhat safe and protected from cybercrime because they grew up using computers and other technology. A 2015 Gallup poll found that 44% of 18- to 34-year-olds believe that businesses keep their personal information safe and secure all or most of the time. Millennials are particularly vulnerable to identity theft and fraud because their Social Security numbers (SSN) are used so frequently, including for college loan applications and job application transcripts. Consequently, identity theft and fraud can go undetected, resulting in more damage and a greater expense than if caught right away. According to the FTC, **12% of the reported fraud cases and 14% of the reported identity theft cases in 2015 came from people under the age of 30 (who represent 21% of the population)**. The *International Business Times* reports, "Millennials tend not to think twice when they're asked for information. Experts said this naive belief has a variety of causes, such as Millennials' upbringing, inexperience, and apathy, but it is all likely to end in one result: fraud."



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Generation X

Currently part of the largest age group in the workforce, Gen Xers are seeing more than their fair share of identity theft and fraud. Those aged 30 through 50 reported **31% of the fraud cases and 36% of the identity theft cases in 2015, which is slightly higher than the 27.2% of the population** that they represent. A 2015 Gallup poll reported that a third of Gen Xers trust businesses to protect their personal information all or most of the time. This trust, combined with this generation's favorite ways to save money (using online insurance and subprime mortgages), can result in identity theft going unnoticed for a long period of time since neither of these activities are routinely covered by traditional credit monitoring.

Baby Boomers

As Baby Boomers approach retirement, they must pay close attention to their credit, identities, and finances. "Boomers are besieged by criminals operating schemes to swindle them out of their bank information, tax refunds, Medicare benefits, and retirement savings, and many don't realize it," reports CNN. The latest report from the FTC backs this up. People between the ages of 50 and 70 reported **41% of the fraud complaints and 44% of the identity theft cases to the FTC in 2015—almost double the 22.8% of the population** that they represent.

Seniors

People born before 1945 are not online as much as Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials; however, they are relatively easy prey for telephone scam artists. According to the *Boston Globe*, "Thieves often pose as Medicare representatives and ask seniors to send them Social Security numbers and other personal information to verify that they are eligible for a benefits payment." People over the age of 70 reported **16% of the fraud complaints in 2015, yet they only represent 8.7% of the population**. "Seniors are seen as an easy opportunity. Identity thieves prey upon older people because they are vulnerable. They are often socially isolated and lonely, tend to be trusting and vulnerable, and may have early dementia or memory loss," reports *AgingCare.com*.

Protect Yourself Today

It doesn't matter when you were born; no one is safe from identity theft. By enrolling in ID Watchdog, you can rest assured that your identity is fully protected from hackers and cybercriminals. We continuously monitor your account and notify you once we detect a change in your personally identifiable information (PII). Our Certified Identity Theft Risk Management Specialists (CITMRS) will work with you to assess your case and manage it until your identity is completely restored. ID Watchdog has never been unable to restore an identity. To learn more, visit www.IDWatchdog.com today or talk to your benefits administrator.



Gen X
1/3 OF GEN XERS TRUST *businesses to protect their personal information all or most of the time.*



Boomers
BOOMERS ARE BOMBARDED *by schemes to con them out of Medicare benefits, tax refunds, bank information, and savings.*



Seniors
Identity thieves prey upon older people because **THEY ARE VULNERABLE.**

Take the next step in ensuring your financial well-being by enrolling in ID Watchdog's identity theft protection.

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